



July 29, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
C/O Commission Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402
Washington, D.C.

FCC Proceeding: Docket No. 03-167

Dear Commissioners:

The board of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously to support SBC's application to provide long distance service in Ohio. Enhanced competition in the telecommunication's market will foster quality services while offering residential consumers and businesses more choices and lower rates.

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is an organization of business and professional leaders committed to advancing the economic, cultural and civic welfare of our community. Approval of SBC's long distance application will benefit Lakewood. It will also promote Ohio as a state eager to compete for businesses. Low cost long distance rates are critical factors for many site location decisions. Competition in Ohio's long distance market will lower rates, attracting new investment and encouraging economic development in our city and our state.

When the big, national long distance companies face competition in their market, which has occurred all across the Country, they counter by aggressively entering the local telephone market. When this happens, prices are lowered and businesses and consumers win.

The FCC should support the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's endorsement and allow SBC Ohio into the long distance market.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge the FCC to move expeditiously to a positive conclusion for SBC Ohio's entry into the long distance market.

Sincerely,

Kathryn J. Berkshire

Kathy Berkshire
Executive Director

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